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**From:** Bergquist, Lee [lee.bergquist@jrn.com]  
**Sent:** 2/1/2018 8:32:55 PM  
**To:** Singer, Joshua [Singer.Joshua@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Lippert, Allison [lippert.allison@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: EPA responding to your inquiry re Stepp recusal

Ok good thanks for the update.

lee

Lee Bergquist  
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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



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[www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com)

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**From:** Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:19:05 PM  
**To:** Bergquist, Lee  
**Cc:** Lippert, Allison  
**Subject:** RE: EPA responding to your inquiry re Stepp recusal

Lee,

Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp is recused from both issues. Please attribute this information to U.S. EPA.

Thank you.

Josh

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**From:** Bergquist, Lee [mailto:lee.bergquist@jrn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: EPA responding to your inquiry re Stepp recusal

Hi Allison,

Thanks for getting back to me. You will have to be more specific.

Did she recuse herself in the case of the petition for corrective action from Midwest Environmental Advocates?

Or was it in the barrel case? Our reporter on the story says Cathy Stepp recused herself from that case. I asked for confirmation in a follow-up email.

And I also asked if Stepp has recused herself in other cases - and which cases they are.

(The barrel case, below.)

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/investigations/2018/01/26/barrel-plant-owners-promise-install-new-pollution-equipment-st-francis-facility/1067735001/>

Lee

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**From:** Lippert, Allison <[lippert.allison@epa.gov](mailto:lippert.allison@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 1:26:21 PM  
**To:** Bergquist, Lee  
**Subject:** EPA responding to your inquiry re Stepp recusal

*Hi Lee – your inquiry was forwarded to me. Please attribute the response below to EPA or an agency spokesperson:*

As is the practice in every transition, Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp immediately consulted with EPA's ethics counsel and decided to recuse herself in this matter. The RA's decision was not influenced by prodding and petitions from any special interest group.

Thanks,

Allison Lippert  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
312-353-0967

